

Please amend the claims as follows. These are the claims as filed December 30 but not entered, except that claim 19 has been amended to render it more generic and a new claim 24 has been added which is dependent from claim 19.

Claims 1-16: Canceled

1 17. (currently amended) A method of making lugs for joints in a bicycle frame made of
 2 carbon fiber tubes,
 3 the method comprising the steps of:
 4 making a lay-up of at least carbon fibers and a matrix material around the joint,
 5 applying a mold to the tubes and laid-up fibers and matrix material, and
 6 curing the lug in the mold, the cure including expansion of an expandable element
 7 located between the mold and the tubes, the element's expansion serving to compact the
 8 lay-up.

1 18. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 17 wherein:
 2 the mold is ~~a captured~~ lined with silicon mold; and
 3 in the step of curing the lug in the mold, the expandable element is the ~~captured~~
 4 silicon.

1 19. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 17 wherein:
 2 the step of making the lay-up includes the step of including ~~a layer of expanding~~
 3 ~~foam~~ the expandable element in the lay-up; and
 4 ~~in the step of curing the lug in the mold, the element is the expanding foam.~~

1 20. (original) The method set forth in claim 17 wherein:
 2 the step of making a lay-up includes the steps of:
 3 wrapping each tube in the joint with a first carbon fiber fabric that is impregnated
 4 with the matrix material, the ends of the fabric extending beyond the tube;
 5 wrapping the ends of the carbon fiber fabric that is wrapped around a given tube
 6 around the tube the given tube joins to;
 7 wrapping the entire joint in a second carbon fiber fabric whose fibers have an
 8 orientation different from that of the fibers in the first carbon fiber fabric.

1 **21.** (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 20 wherein:
2 the step of making a lay-up further includes the step of:
3 including a layer of ~~expandingable foam~~ expandingable syntactic film in the lay-up.

1 **22.** (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 21 wherein:
2 the step of including a layer of ~~expandingable foam~~ expandingable syntactic film is performed
3 before the step of wrapping the entire joint in a second carbon fiber fabric.

1 **23.** (original) The method set forth in claim 20 wherein:
2 the step of wrapping the entire joint is done such that all seams in the second
3 carbon fiber fabric are at the top and bottom of the tubes and the second carbon fiber
4 fabric is overlapped at the seams.

1 **24.** (new) The method set forth in claim 19 wherein:
2 the expandable element is a layer of expandable syntactic film.